



West Coast Occupy Wall Street: 'Shut docks Dec. 12!'

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Battle lines have formed as the West Coast Occupy movements, from San Diego to Alaska, flex their collective muscle against the federally coordinated, brutal attacks targeting the pro-Occupy Wall Street movements across the country. They are organizing for blockades of West Coast ports on Dec. 12 in San Diego; Los Angeles/Long Beach; Port Hueneme, Calif. (central coast); Oakland; Portland, Ore.; Seattle; Tacoma, Wash.; and possibly more. Solidarity actions have been called by OWS in New York and inland locations, as well.

The pro-OWS movement is aligning itself with labor and the working class, as the West Coast Occupy movements organize to support the struggle of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in Longview, Wash. Longshore workers there are waging a ferocious battle against transnational EGT, controlled by Bunge Ltd., of the grain cartel that controls most of the world's trade in food products. EGT is trying to break the ILWU in an attempt to drive down wages and destroy the union. (Read "Longshore workers call for

Continued on page 7

Capitalists can't fix deepening crisis

By Fred Goldstein

It is more than four years since the housing bubble burst and the world capitalist economic crisis came down upon the heads of the working class and the oppressed in August 2007. Despite all the talk of economic recovery, the plague of unemployment, underemployment, rising poverty, lower wages and general insecurity is still growing.

Suffering in the U.S. is on the rise while the world's bankers are struggling to save trillions of dollars for investors and bankers who have stakes in Europe. In the U.S., the statistical wizards in Washington have used mathematical tricks to declare that the unemployment rate is down from 9 percent to 8.6 percent. This is supposed to be good news, "positive signs" according to the

Continued on page 6

Longshore workers talk to WW 'LABOR SOLIDARITY ABOVE ALL'

6



MUMIA ABU-JAMAL:

'Whom do they represent?'

3

THE 99% RESIST

Police occupy Los Angeles,
Philadelphia

10



Martina Davis Correia,
Fred Hampton
PRESENTE!

2, 3



**HUNGER
& PROFITS** EDITORIAL 10



WW PHOTO: Bill Bowers

Nov. 2 port shutdown in Oakland was widely supported.

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ Four weeks trial \$4 ☐ One year subscription \$25
☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program. 212.627.2994
For more information: workers.org/supporters/ www.workers.org

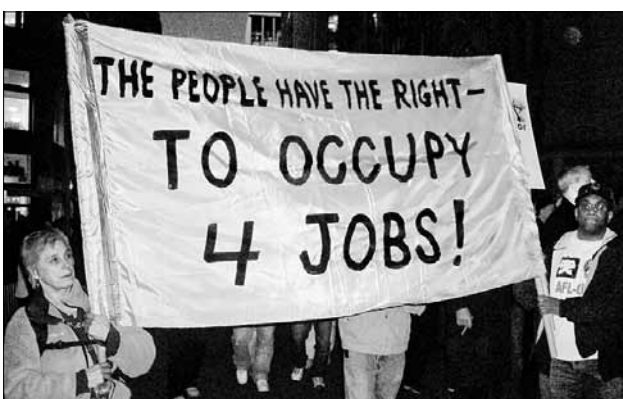
Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Workers World Newspaper 55 W. 17th St. #5C, NY, NY 10011

20,000 unionists march for jobs



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

The New York City Central Labor Council coordinated a Dec. 1 march for "Jobs and Economic Fairness" from Herald Square to Union Square in midtown Manhattan that drew 20,000 workers, according to the organizers. (www.nycclc.org) Unions in both the public and private sector participated, including many teachers and iron workers, with strong delegations from the United Federation of Teachers, the Professional Staff Congress, the New York State Nurses Association and many other unions.

As one observer noted, "The turnout was look-

Continued on page 4

What it means to be a revolutionary

Excerpts from a talk given by WWP youth organizer Caleb Maupin at the Workers World Party National Conference on Oct. 8-9 in New York City.

What we are seeing today are the wheels of a ruthless capitalist system continuing to grind away.

Marx spoke of how this system began. He sarcastically called it the “rosy dawn” of capitalism. It began with slave ships docking in Africa and the genocide of millions of Native people here in what became the United States. Next was a horrific period of racist Jim Crow terror in the South and sweatshops and child labor in the North.

How many wars have there been? Whenever people seek to resist their orders, the ruling class comes down horrifically with bombs and destruction. Now, the environment is being degraded and destroyed, as the planet heats up due to global warming.

Capitalism may be capable of destroying people’s lives, and maybe even destroying the earth, but it will not destroy itself. Some people are under the misconception that capitalism will somehow collapse under its own weight and just fall apart.

As communists, we know that capitalism’s ugly wheels will keep turning, as it seeks more and more profits. When we say, “We want to abolish capitalism,” we know that this has to be a conscious act. It will take a revolutionary party, mobilizing millions of people, to bring this system down. Capitalism will not destroy itself. Capitalism must be destroyed, and we have to destroy it.

Being a revolutionary in modern times means being part of a global movement. We are not the U.S. Workers Party. We are Workers World Party. We stand in solidarity with the Cubans who provide more medical aid



WW PHOTO: RACHEL DUELL
Caleb Maupin

around the world than any other country on this earth. We stand with the Venezuelans and the Bolivians as they fight to construct socialism. We stand with the people of Honduras in their fight against the U.S.-backed coup regime. We’re with the Egyptians in Tahrir Square. We stood with the Libyan people as they fought the NATO occupiers.

However, the center of this ruthless empire is not in Asia, Africa or Latin America. It is not too far from this hall in the Bronx. It’s on Wall Street.

On Wall Street there are thousands of youth condemning this system and fighting against its horrors. We stand with them.

Putting politics and the suffering that people living under this system endure aside for a moment, and just thinking logically, what kind of sense does it make to have such massive unemployment? So many youth, full of strength, energy, brilliance and creativity, are being cast aside as useless. This system says it has no use for millions and millions of people with so much to contribute.

The bosses may not have any use for millions of youth across the U.S., but we do. We have plenty of room for them in our revolutionary party. The millions of youth that have been cast off by this system will eventually forge the army for the coming revolution to overthrow this system.

We need to begin discussing and envisioning a socialist United States, which I have a feeling will be coming into being very soon. After taking power, we will utilize everyone to fight against the horrors that people face now, and we will build a good life for all. But the revolution will only be the beginning of struggle, as we march toward a classless, communist future. □

On the 42nd anniversary of his assassination Black Panther leader Fred Hampton honored

**By Eric Struch
Chicago**

At 4:45 a.m. on Dec. 4, 1969, a special Chicago Police Department/FBI/Illinois State’s Attorney’s Office death squad opened fire with machine guns, shotguns and side arms inside a small apartment at 2337 W. Monroe on this city’s West Side.

Their target was Chairman Fred Hampton of the Illinois Black Panther Party, who, along with another Party member, Mark Clark, were slain while sleeping. Referred to belovedly by the movement as Chairman Fred, he helped to successfully organize a free breakfast for children program, a sickle cell anemia testing program and political education study groups for Party and non-Party members.

Perhaps most dangerous for the Mayor Richard J. Daley dictatorship, he organized an alliance between street organizations like the Young Lords, the Blackstone Rangers and the Young Patriots.

His “serve the people” outlook had earned him a place on the FBI’s “Agitator Index,” which turned out to be a death sentence for him. Chairman Fred said, “You can



WW PHOTO: JILL WHITE
Fred Hampton, Jr., with sunglasses, pays tribute to his revolutionary father.

kill the revolutionary, but you can’t kill the revolution,” and history has proven him to be correct.

Every year since 2001, revolutionary-minded people

Continued on page 3

WORKERS WORLD this week...

★ In the U.S.

West Coast OWS: ‘Shut docks Dec. 12!’	1
Capitalists can’t fix deepening crisis.....	1
20,000 unionists march for jobs.....	1
What it means to be a revolutionary	2
Black Panther leader Fred Hampton honored	2
Martina Correia, sister of Troy Davis, presente!.....	3
Mumia Abu-Jamal: Whom do they represent?.....	3
A call for ‘Economic Bill of Rights’.....	3
Meeting highlights struggle agenda.....	4
New York City Town Hall protest ‘flushes Rush’.....	4
Cops attack Occupy LA, arrest 250	5
Cops evict Occupy Philly; protesters regroup.....	5
On the picket line	5
WW interview with longshore workers.....	7
Message to Occupy Philly	10

★ Around the world

British general strike shuts public sector	6
The Egyptian elections: Why an Islamic sweep?	8
Imperialists prepare for military intervention in Syria.....	8
Student protests spread in Latin America	9
Tijuana conference builds unity in the Americas.....	9
Top ten: Big Oil, Pentagon and Iran	9
Africa 2011: U.S. & French imperialism on the continent	11
General strike in Greece confronts bankers’ prime minister .	11

★ Editorials

Hunger: a crime of capitalism.....	10
------------------------------------	----

★ Noticias En Español

Huelga general.....	12
Los 5 Cubanos	12
Haití en lucha	12

Workers World
55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 53, No. 49 • Dec. 15, 2011

Closing date: Dec. 6, 2011
Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson
West Coast Editor: John Parker
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac
Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Shelley Ettinger, Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascassenno
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martínez, Carlos Vargas
Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2011 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road,

Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at www.workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor,
New York, N.Y. 10011.

JOIN US

Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young & old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed, undocumented & students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.
New York, NY 10011
212-627-2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404-627-0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443-909-8964
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617-522-6626
617-983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-883-2534
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216-738-0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313-459-0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408
Durham, NC 27701
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713-503-2633
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
1905 Rodeo Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
la@workers.org
323-515-5870

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610-931-2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
585-436-6458
rochester@workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619-692-0355
sandiego@workers.org

San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco
CA 94103
415-738-4739
sf@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

She never gave up

Martina Correia, sister of Troy Davis, presente!

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Tens of thousands of people came to know Troy Anthony Davis through the persuasive and compelling presentations his sister, Martina Davis Correia, made at hundreds of meetings, rallies and media interviews in this country and around the world.

Correia died Dec. 1 in a Savannah hospital with family and friends by her side. She was 44 years old. The official cause of death was liver failure, a complication from years of cancer treatment.

She had been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002 and at that time was given six months to live. Her brother, Troy, was convicted of killing an off-duty policeman, Mark McPhail, in 1989 and sentenced to death.

Troy's family was steadfast in their conviction that he was not guilty of the crime. They were incensed by the injustice meted out by the local police, prosecutors and judges.

In particular, his mother, Virginia Davis, who had been involved in the sit-in movement against Jim Crow segregation, and his sister, Martina, a former military nurse who served in the first Gulf War, worked unceasingly to bring state and national attention to the blatant miscarriage

Continued from page 2

in Chicago and all over the world observe International Revolutionary Day on Dec. 4, in remembrance of Chairman Fred's immortal contributions to the international proletarian revolutionary struggle.

Despite the blatant racist disrespect shown to the 2011 IRD observance by the nearby Fraternal Order of Police-sponsored Toys For Tots motorcycle parade, a moving memorial vigil was held at the site of Chairman Fred's assassination at 2337 W. Honorary Chairman Fred Hampton Way. People came from as far away as Washington, D.C., to attend IRD.

Five minutes of silence were observed by the large crowd, led by Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee and Comrade Mother Akua Njeri. Representatives of the POCC, Black Panther Party Cubs, the Nation of Islam, L.Y.R.I.C. (Let Your Rhyme Inspire Creativity) and Workers World Party were present.

After the memorial was observed, messages of solidarity were offered by organizations and individuals to Chairman Fred Jr. and Comrade Mother Akua.

Later in the day, a reception and cultural performances were held at Wallace's Catfish Corner, a soul food restaurant known as a meeting spot for community activists. A powerful performance was given by several youth who are affiliated with L.Y.R.I.C. about the assassination of Chairman Fred by the pigs. Poets, including K-Love of L.Y.R.I.C., Chairman Fred Jr.'s daughter Khadijah, Nubian Malik, Senyo and documentary filmmaker Daniel Yusef of Washington, D.C., delivered powerful spoken word performances. Singers included Harmony Grace, Ardice and N'gochi. Bishop Jackson, a close friend of the Hampton/Njeri family, delivered a prayer and a poem by Claude McKay.

"Chairman Fred Hampton Way," a powerful documentary by Ray Baker about the struggle to rename the 2300 block of W. Monroe after Chairman Fred was shown, and a lively political discussion followed. □

of justice during his trial. Virginia Davis died in April 2011, shortly after the Supreme Court denied Troy a final appeal.

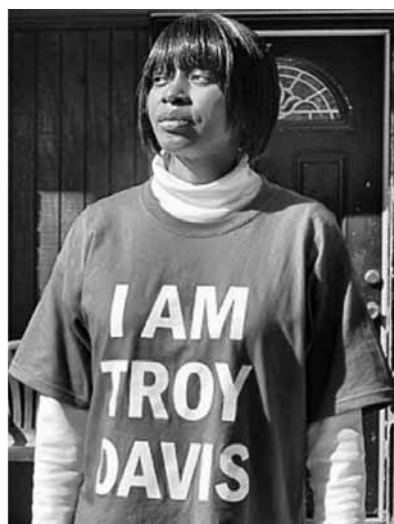
Martina, who had practiced a healthy lifestyle, did not discount that her illness could have been caused by the many toxic chemicals she was exposed to during her stint in the war zone. She fought the cancer as ferociously as she campaigned to save Troy's life.

She became a spokesperson for cancer research and prevention, appearing on local television and at workshops alerting women to the symptoms and treatments available.

Undoubtedly, many who saw her at Troy Davis rallies never imagined the slim, stylishly-dressed woman with the brilliant smile and magnetic personality was undergoing multiple sessions of chemotherapy and radiation.

Martina's struggle against the death penalty went far beyond her concern for the fate of her brother. She was a leader of Georgians for an Alternative to the Death Penalty, on the national board of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty and very active with Amnesty International.

While detailing the specifics of Troy's case, she always made it clear that the legal system was riddled with racism, class bias and inequality. The slogan, "I Am Troy Davis," which Martina first hand-lettered on a T-shirt, became instantly recognized as an indictment of an arbitrary process under which innocence didn't matter if you were poor or a person of color.



Although noticeably ill and in a wheelchair, Correia attended the Georgia Pardons and Parole Board hearing in Atlanta on Sept. 19, was outside the prison walls with supporters on the night of Sept. 21 when her brother was executed and sat in the front row of a packed church for Troy's funeral on Oct. 1.

Kathryn Hammoudah of GFADP, who worked closely with Martina starting in 2008 in organizing mass opposition to Troy's death sentence, told WW: "I always think of words like 'courage,' 'tenacity,' 'passionate commitment,' 'optimistic' to describe Martina. She spoke from her soul and epitomized human dignity."

Correia will be buried on Saturday, Dec. 10, Human Rights Day. She is survived by her son, De'Jaun; sisters, Kim and Ebony; brother, Lester; and niece, Kiersten; and the thousands around the world who have taken up the cause of abolishing the death penalty because of her efforts.

For those who wish to donate to alleviate funeral and medical expenses, checks should be made out to "Martina Davis Correia Fund" and mailed to the Fund in care of Capital City Bank and Trust, 339 MLK Jr. Blvd., Savannah, GA 31419. Condolence cards can be sent to The Davises, 169 Parkview Rd., Savannah, GA 31419. □

From death row, Mumia Abu-Jamal on

'Whom do they represent?'

Taken from a Nov. 18 audio column at www.prisonradio.org.

While the Occupy Movement has certainly drawn attention to the discontent roiling in the depths of the American heart, they are a small percentage, those who have chosen to hit the streets just as cold weather begins to grip many parts of the nation.

And while it may be that their numbers and breadth (over 100 — some say 1,000 cities!) have been impressive, most people, even if they agree wholeheartedly with many of their aims, have yet to take it to the street — at least, not yet. But who can deny that discontent with the economic elites and their political servants is widespread?

According to recent polls, Congress garners the grudging support of a mere 10 percent of Americans. Or, put quite another way, 90 percent of Americans don't support Congress. Ninety percent!

When such an overwhelming percentage of the citizenry opposes the politicians in office, in what sense can this be called a democracy?

In a parliamentary system, used in most of Europe, such abysmal levels of public support would have necessitated a no-confidence vote. But here in the States, a rigid, sclerotic political system has become a prison and an obstruction to most of the people, and politicians openly and proudly look to the narrow interests of the wealthy elites, those the Occupy Movement derides as the 1 percent.

Thomas Jefferson, at the time of the great Shays Rebellion that shook the New England states, looked at such disorders as natural and healthy. Said Jefferson: "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government. God forbid that we should ever be 20 years without such a rebellion." (Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States" (2003: p.95)

Think about that the next time you hear some neon or Tea Partier talk about the Occupiers as "un-American." The people are rightly pissed at politicians who are but the paid puppets of the plutocracy. While neo-Rome burns, they light up their imported cigars with \$100 bills. □

A call for 'Economic Bill of Rights' on Rosa Parks Day

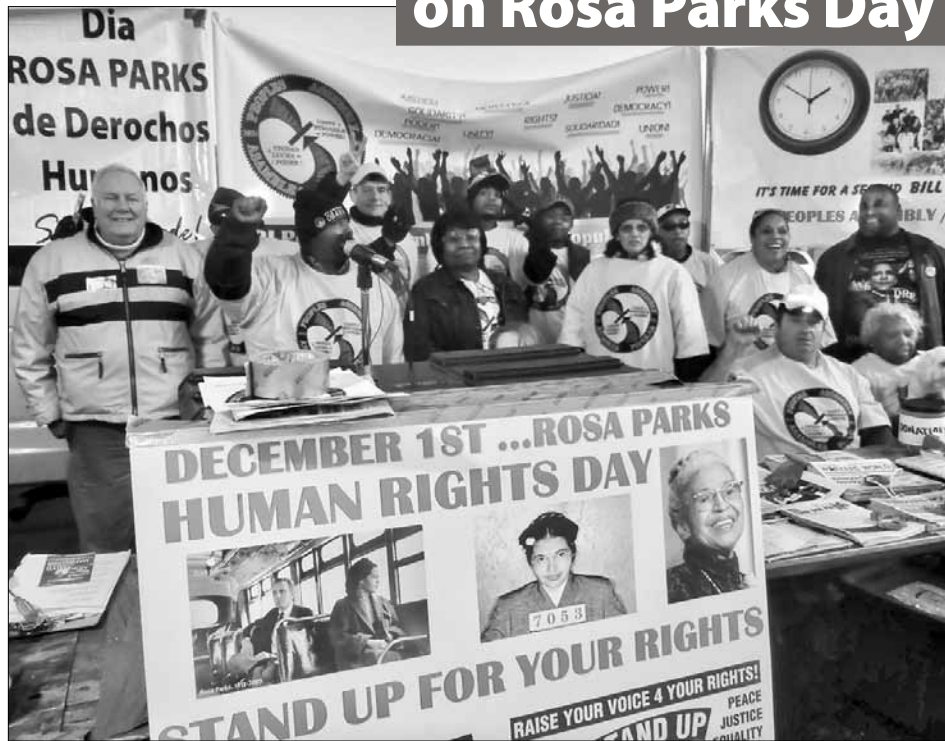


PHOTO: ROBERT MALIN

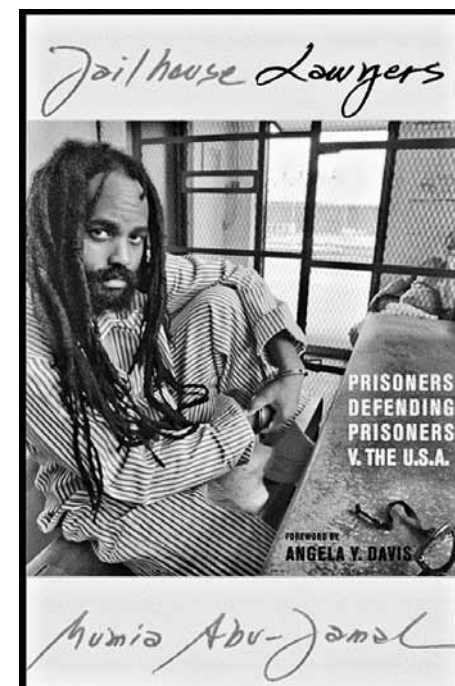
On Dec. 1, dozens of members of the Rhode Island Rosa Parks Human Rights Committee of the RI Peoples Assembly organized a rush-hour, peoples' tribute to past and present struggles for social and economic rights, equality and freedom. Clad in their bright orange T-shirts, the activists lined Broad Street in the heart of Providence's South Side.

Thousands of students pouring out of Central High School and passersby were treated to a spectacle of beautiful banners and placards, and the music of many popular singers. Speakers hailed Rosa Parks and others whose struggles paved the way for today's protesters. They said generations must unite and stand up together against the new wave of attacks on the

social and economic gains and the rights of working and oppressed people. They called for a new society based on human needs, equality and peace to replace the present one based on profits, inequality and war.

They called for a new "Economic Bill of Rights" which would guarantee jobs, a \$15/hr. minimum wage, free universal health care, free public education, and affordable housing, utilities, recreation and culture. It would ensure an adequate income for all seniors and disabled people, low-cost mass transit, essential services to promote healthy communities, and a green planet with open spaces and renewable energy.

— Bill Bateman



To read more by Mumia Abu-Jamal read:

JAILHOUSE LAWYERS
Prisoners defending prisoners v. the U.S.A.

Available at: freemumia.com/?page_id=60 and bookstores around the country

Anti-racist, anti-capitalist

Meeting highlights struggle agenda

By Bryan G. Pfeifer & Gerry Scoppettuolo
Milwaukee

Last February, thousands of Wisconsin unionists and supporters, inspired by the Egyptian people's uprising, occupied the state Capitol for weeks in a militant fight-back against Wall Street's union-busting campaign against public employees and other austerity measures. This mass tactic of resistance has been followed by Occupy Wall Street actions from coast to coast and internationally.

Just as the Recall [Wisconsin Gov. Scott] Walker campaign is shifting into high gear, 75 leaders and organizers — representing communities of color, unionists, youth and students, anti-war and internationalist activists, and community organizers — met for a Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement and Occupy 4 Jobs Network "People's Organizing Meeting" in Milwaukee on Dec. 3.

Participants came from Madison and Green Bay, Wis., and throughout Metro Milwaukee; Rockford, Ill., and Chicago, Detroit, Boston and New Jersey. The gathering was held at the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 union hall and was opened by co-chair Angela Walker, legislative director of the union.

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of Troy Davis, who was executed in Georgia on Sept. 21, and his recently deceased sister, Martina Davis-Correia; Mumia Abu-Jamal; Leonard Peltier; and all political prisoners. The meeting began with the poem, "Georgia Has Blood On Its Hands," by people's poet Eric Disambwa.

Al Simonis, president of ATU Local 998, then welcomed the assembly to the union's meeting hall, with its walls adorned with banners and placards from many decades of struggles.

Meeting co-chair Bryan G. Pfeifer, a WI



Dec. 3 program participants, supporters.
WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

BOPM organizer, gave a political overview of current struggles in Wisconsin and introduced the chair of the opening Labor-Community panel, Gerry Scoppettuolo, a co-founder of Boston's Pride At Work and a BOPM organizer.

Thus began an afternoon of more than 25 invited speakers and other meeting participants raising labor-community-student issues and anti-racist, anti-capitalist themes.

Speakers on the "Labor-Community" panel were Terence Tyler of Africans On The Move, who gave a talk, "The Need to Build Local Coalitions and the Barriers Between the Workers and the Poor"; Jerry Goldberg of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition from Detroit, who spoke on the need for a national moratorium on foreclosures and a federal WPA-style jobs program; Carolina Soza-Gonzalez, an immigrant

and prisoner rights activist, who demanded an end to the raids and deportations of immigrants; Gilbert Johnson, president of AFSCME Local 82 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, who talked about the need for labor-community-student unity and solidarity; Babette Grunow from the Latin American Solidarity Network, who said while she was in Honduras last spring the people's movement there expressed their solidarity with the occupation in Madison; and Lamonte Harris, longtime labor-community activist and a member of Occupy The Hood, who called for unions to take up more seriously the issues of people of color.

The meeting's "Expand Occupy Wall Street: Occupy The World!" panel was chaired by Salvatore Cipriano of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) in Detroit and a participant in Occupy Detroit. Lydia LeVieux of Occupy Milwaukee, Daniel Benoit of Occupy Green Bay, Khalil Coleman and Angie Jones of Occupy The Hood and Chance Zombor of Decolonize The Hood, spoke on this panel. A major focus was on the need for white workers to respect the leading roles and issues of people of color in this and other movements.

The closing panel, "The Peoples Global Fightback and Occupy 4 Jobs," included Larry Hales, a national organizer for BOPM, who talked about the new Occupy 4 Jobs campaign and gave a stirring account of the blockade and shutdown of the Oakland, Calif., port by 30,000 poor and working people on Nov. 2. Doreatha Mbalia of the Pan African Revolutionary Socialist Party spoke on the topic "Anti-Capitalism, Pan-Africanism and the Obstacles that Impede the Achievement of Both," while Abayomi Azikiwe of the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice and the Pan African Newswire gave an anti-imperialist talk calling on workers in the United States to oppose imperialist war especially in Africa.

Discussion took place after each panel and many in the multinational audience reported on struggles they are engaged in. Special comments were made to support the postal workers under siege and the Milwaukee Transit Riders Union gave a report on their fightback campaign against transit cuts.

For updates and information on WI BOPM activities and other struggles, go to www.wibailoutpeople.org. □

20,000 unionists march for jobs



Continued from page 1

ing pretty good, the crowd was getting pumped up, and then SEIU 32 BJ showed up!" This dynamic union of the porters, maintenance and other building workers are opening contract talks for 60,000 union members in the metropolitan New York region and had just come off a huge strike authorization vote. The union plans another rally on Dec. 14 to support a fair contract, with the place to be named later. (www.seiu32bj.org).

Some of the workers on the march were wearing buttons reading, "I am the 99 percent." A contingent from the group "Occupy 4 Jobs" carried two banners in the march.

After the demonstrators reached Union Square, the Occupy Wall Street Labor Outreach Committee led two groups

downtown to Zuccotti Park. As described by participant Sam Talbot: "The two marches converged on Houston and Broadway, and marched along both sides of the street, with a police escort sandwiched in between. With a corp of drummers banging away at the head of the march, we continued to draw more and more people into the procession."

"When we got to the park," Talbot continued, "the police refused to let us enter as a group. After a standoff, they agreed to let everyone except the drummers into the park, so they stood at the perimeter and banged away!"

Hundreds of copies of Workers World newspaper reached the workers on the march.

—Report and photo by John Catalinotto

NEW YORK CITY TOWN HALL PROTEST

'Flushes Rush'

The prototype 21st century U.S. fascist mentality, the right-wing radio propagandist known as Rush Limbaugh, made an appearance Nov. 29 in midtown Manhattan at the prestigious Town Hall, often a venue for progressive meetings. The International Action Center and other left groups decided that, despite the numerous popular actions competing for attention, it would be a contribution to the struggle of the 99 Percent to confront head-on this offensive fascist's fascist offensive. Thus, those who came to contribute to Limbaugh saw there was opposition to his backward ideas.

An IAC release called Limbaugh "a hate monger ... a war monger [who] supported the Pentagon invasions of Afghanistan and Libya," adding that he "constantly ridicules women" and that "defaming lesbian, gay and transgender people is Limbaugh's trademark." Also, though "this multimillionaire radio jerk would starve to death if undocumented workers didn't gather the food for his table," he is "a cheerleader for



the fascist anti-immigrant laws in Arizona and Alabama" and "spews hate against immigrants."

"Our greatest weapon is unity. Limbaugh's \$38-million-a-year job is to divide us."

Report and photos
by John Catalinotto

On The Picket Line

By Sue Davis

Machinists negotiate Boeing contract

At a time when many unions are fighting to maintain collective bargaining rights, it's a positive sign that Machinists Union District Lodge 751, which represents 28,000 Boeing workers in Washington state, has negotiated a new four-year contract that adds thousands of jobs while raising pay and pensions. Why? Because Boeing wants labor peace. Workers will get 2 percent raises each year, with cost-of-living adjustments, a productivity incentive program paying bonuses of 2 to 4 percent, and a ratification bonus of \$5,000 for each member. Though workers will pay more for health insurance, Boeing agreed to pay more into the pension plan, which it guaranteed for new hires. Calling the agreement "unusually generous," the Dec. 1 New York Times contended that Boeing "aimed to put a definitive end to a fractious era during which the machinists went on strike five times since 1977, including a 58-day strike that cost Boeing \$1.8 billion." It noted that Boeing became so motivated when customers threatened to give orders to European competitors if there were more strikes. In exchange the Machinists agreed to drop its case before the National Labor Relations Board against Boeing opening a new plant in South Carolina. But the best part is that a major U.S. corporation was forced to affirm workers' rights in an anti-union climate. That shows the workers' strike weapon still has big teeth.

U.S. solidarity with huge British strike

The National Nurses Union organized six demonstrations in U.S. cities on Nov. 30 to show solidarity with the more than 2 million British public sector workers whose jobs and wages are under attack. Chanting "No ifs, no buts, no public sector cuts!" demonstrators marched in front of the British Embassy in northwest Washington, D.C. Nurses from Washington Hospital Center, who just won a long struggle, were joined by workers represented by the American Federation of Teachers, Teamsters, Letter Carriers and Service Employees unions, as well as members of Occupy DC. Karen Higgins, NNU co-president, delivered a solidarity letter to the embassy, as did Metro Washington Council President Jos Williams. He told the crowd that public sector cuts in Britain "may affect public workers primarily, but it really affects all workers globally." Other NNU protests were held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Chicago and Orlando, Fla. (Union City, online newsletter of Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO, Dec. 1)

N.H. unions help defeat 'right-to-work'

It took a year-long struggle led by unions and community groups to keep New Hampshire from being turned into a "right-to-work" state. On Nov. 30, the House of Representatives failed to override Gov. John Lynch's veto of the bill. The corporate-funded American Legislative Exchange Council pushed the bill, but unions and community activists pushed back. They even won over two dozen Republicans to their cause — despite presidential candidate Rick Perry's anti-union message to the legislature that morning. The Nation noted that 22 U.S. states, mostly in what was the Confederacy, have such anti-union laws, which "undermine the ability of unions to organize all employees in a workplace and make it dramatically harder for organized labor to provide a voice for workers on the job or in the political debates of the day." (Nov. 30)

Indiana unionists occupy Capitol to stop 'right-to-work' law

Before "Thanksgiving," more than 2,000 steelworkers, teachers, jobless workers and retirees occupied the Capitol in Indianapolis to protest the projected 2012 bill that would turn Indiana into a "right-to-work" state. Wearing "We are the 99%" stickers and buttons, the workers denounced politicians for pandering to the wealthy 1%. Organizers promised, "This is just the beginning of a renewed battle against this divisive and politically motivated power grab" in Indiana. (AFL-CIO Now blog, Nov. 25)

Lawsuit charges Walmart warehouses in Chicago with 'wage theft'

On Nov. 19, Warehouse Workers for Justice helped workers file their fourth class-action lawsuit since 2009 against companies that operate Walmart warehouses in the Chicago area. Noting that Walmart is ultimately responsible for workers' wages and working conditions in their warehouses, the lawsuit charges that workers were promised \$9.25 to \$10 an hour, plus a productivity bonus and paid vacation, but their checks showed they were paid for substantially fewer hours than they actually worked, reducing their hourly wage. The companies are charged with "wage theft" violations of federal labor law and a stringent Illinois law. In October, the California labor department fined a company operating a Walmart warehouse there half a million dollars for labor law violations. A recently revised book, "Wage Theft in America," notes that millions of workers in low-wage jobs are being robbed annually of billions of dollars owed them by greedy capitalists, and this has only increased during the economic crisis. (In These Times, Nov. 25) □

OCCUPY LA

Cops attack, arrest 250

By John Parker
Los Angeles

Some 1,400 cops attacked the Occupy Los Angeles people and their supporters late on the evening of Nov. 29, eventually clearing the area and arresting as many as 250 that night.

In response to the police attack, the participants in the occupation are working out the next phase of the struggle. Their initial focus will be to challenge the police and city's assault on First Amendment rights and the social and economic issues that the Occupy movement put on center stage — the crying need for jobs at a decent wage and the scandalous inequality in the distribution of wealth.

After 10 p.m. on Nov. 29, police began assembling a military "war zone," as a videotaped cop said, around Occupy LA at City Hall. Just after midnight police began moving in, taking advantage of the large perimeter around City Hall park to keep the many hundreds of supporters from getting closer and showing solidarity.

By 3 a.m. police had arrested more than 250 people. Another 70 protesters took refuge in a nearby church. There were reports that five Los Angeles Police Department cops beat a woman after throwing her to the ground and that another severe beating caused serious injuries.

A cop spokesperson was on hand to give the nearly complicit corporate media a pro-police spin and minimize the force used. However, the 1,400

cops equipped with shotguns, teargas, gas masks, and hazmat suits and with many helicopters flying overhead contradicted this attempt to cover up police violence.

Ruth Fowler on OccupyLosAngeles.org described the events: "Facts so far are: a ruthlessly efficient military operation comprised of 1,400 riot cops armed with tear gas canisters and batons was roundly praised by the mainstream media as 'peaceful.' This ignored the police brutality witnessed, including beatings, unlawful arrests and rubber bullets used on protesters and media, while the legitimacy of the second 'unlawful assembly' called at First and Main, and resulting in numerous more arrests, is still called into question. A media pool was established covertly, citing non-existent penal codes to silence the press, while media in the pool were working for the LAPD."

As of Dec. 1, about 210 of those arrested had charges dropped, with 40 remaining in prison. Solidarity efforts are continuing and the General Assembly of the Occupy LA movement has resumed at City Hall Park, which the occupiers now call "Solidarity Park." There is a large police presence surrounding these assemblies, and cops have orders to arrest occupiers if they remain after 10:30 p.m.

Among the continuing actions planned is fighting for a moratorium against foreclosures. The first one will begin Dec. 8 to shut down an auction and call for "Jobs, not Foreclosures." □

Cops evict; protesters regroup

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

After 55 days of holding their ground in front of City Hall in Dilworth Plaza, Occupy Philly protesters were forcibly evicted in the early morning hours of Nov. 30, when hundreds of police on foot, bicycles and horseback surrounded the encampment.

Two days after the city presented their final "eviction" notice to Occupy Philly, a spirited demonstration of protesters confronted the police show of force. Rather than waiting around to be arrested, the demonstrators instead marched and chanted through Center City for hours.

Over 100 strong, demonstrators first marched to nearby Rittenhouse Square, described on one protest blog as "the front lawn of Philly's rich." Although police prevented demonstrators from entering the park, the numbers of protesters grew to over 200 as word got out of the eviction. Around 4 a.m., some people attempted to set up a tent in the middle of the street near City Hall.

Police first smashed the tent, then surrounded and arrested eight protesters. After telling the rest to get on the sidewalks, police on horseback pushed them back, a horse trampling one Occupy Philly media crew member's foot in the process.

Police then used batons and bicycles against 200 others who engaged in a breakaway march through city streets. Fifty-two protesters were eventually arrested, and several injured by the police assault, which many described as "a show of force designed to intimidate."

The Occupy Philadelphia Facebook reported that police were seen "choking people with their own scarves and bandanas, throwing bikes and barricades at people, pushing and smashing bikes and riot shields in the people's fronts and backs, shoving the front tires of their bikes between women's legs ... and more." (Nov. 30)

The eviction of Occupy Philly took place at the same time as the eviction of Occupy Los Angeles.

It was clear, however, that the attack failed to



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

break the spirit of Occupy Philly. By 4 p.m. on Nov. 30, hundreds again gathered at Rittenhouse Park for a spirited march through Center City to the police headquarters, where they waited for the release of fellow protesters. Passersby greeted their march down Market Street with a strong show of support. Many shouted out words of encouragement. One older Black woman called out, "You're doing the right thing. Don't let them push you around."

Demonstrators again returned in force on Dec. 3, first gathering across from the now completely barricaded Dilworth Plaza, then marching to the area in front of the Liberty Bell at 6th and Market streets. Hundreds joined the spirited march, and hundreds of people along the route stopped to show support. Representatives of the Service Employees and UNITE-HERE — two unions whose actions had been supported by Occupy Philly — joined the march.

A two-hour "mic-check" open speakout at the Liberty Bell allowed dozens to express their determination to keep up the fight. Several speakers described their own experience and that of their friends at the hands of brutal police on Wednesday morning. This was an important response to some Occupy Philly participants who wanted to maintain the fallacy that "the police are our friends" and "part of the 99 percent."

Workers World Party members distributed a flier at the speakout explaining "why the police are not our friends" that provided a history of the racism of the Philadelphia police force. The flier was well received. □

Capitalists can't fix deepening crisis

Continued from page 1

spin masters. But to the 30 million workers who are unemployed or underemployed, this false news is a bitter pill.

The government's own numbers give the lie to its claims of a significant drop in unemployment. The statistics say that 120,000 net new jobs were created in November. But the government also says it takes at least 125,000 to 150,000 new jobs each month just to absorb the new working-age population entering the work force.

The trick of getting the official unemployment rate down is to shrink the official size of the total work force — even though the living workers and their families who have disappeared from the official count have not gone anywhere. They are still very much alive and struggling to survive.

At the same time that it boasts about unemployment dropping, the government has declared that the official work force, which includes both those working and those officially jobless, shrank by almost half a million — 487,000, an abnormally high number. If those unemployed workers said to have dropped out of the labor force were included as part of the labor force, the official unemployment rate would still be 9 percent. Nevertheless, the Obama administration and capitalist pundits in the media use manipulated numbers to claim that progress is being made.

Little mention is made of the fact that wages declined and hours worked remained flat. The result is that average take-home pay shrank in November. But beyond this feat of creative math, the big picture can be seen in a new study by Wider Opportunities for Women, an advocacy group well known for debunking official poverty statistics. It released a survey on Nov. 22 showing that 45 percent of the population of the U.S. now lives in a state of economic insecurity. (wowonline.org/livingbelowtheline.asp)

Summarizing the report, Donna Addikson, head of WOW, said, "Nearly half the nation's families cannot cover the costs of basic expenses even when they do have a job." WOW calculates economic status by studying the actual costs of living, city by city.

Among the findings, 75 percent of adult workers with full-time jobs still live in economic insecurity because of the slide in wages over the last decade. This is in line with recent findings based on Census Bureau statistics that 100 million people in the U.S. are poor or near-poor. Additionally, the Department of Agriculture recently revealed that the number of children qualifying for free or subsidized school lunches has risen from 18 million

in 2007 to 21 million last year. The cause is unemployment and lower wages among millions of families.

European bosses push crisis onto workers

Meanwhile, in Europe, the bankers and bosses are seeking to solve their financial crises on the backs of the workers with enforced austerity programs.

During this week, the heads of governments and financial officials in Europe, with U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner breathing down their necks, are struggling to find a formula to "save the euro." What they are really trying to save is the continued flow of payments of hundreds of billions in interest and principal from indebted governments. These governments have made deals over the years with the financial usurers and loan sharks, politely called the "financial community," who have bled these governments dry.

With the economic crisis, the decline of production and the rise of unemployment, tax revenues decline drastically. The bankers don't care one bit. They want their money. And the only way left to get it is to impose austerity on the working class.

Right now, there is a complicated struggle among the various capitalist governments in Europe, even as the U.S. government is trying to secure the interests of the bankers here. German Prime Minister Angela Merkel and French President Nicholas Sarkozy are at the center of it all as leaders of the most powerful capitalist countries on the continent.

As the capitalist crisis has continued to take its toll on the treasuries of the European countries, the poorer ones, like Greece, Portugal and Ireland, have fallen further and further into debt to private investors and bankers in order to meet their expenses. When they were in danger of defaulting on their debts, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund stepped in to give them bailouts. In return, each of these governments had to draw up an austerity plan to cut workers' wages, pensions and public spending, as well as raise taxes.

Now, Spain and Italy are unable to pay even the interest on their huge debts, endangering the entire financial structure. The fear is that bailouts for these economies will be huge. Financiers are demanding higher and higher rates of interest from Spain and Italy to make loans. This further impoverishes the treasuries.

The U.S. ruling class and the rest of Europe have been looking to the German bankers to get behind a bailout. German capitalism is by far the strongest economy in Europe and the fourth largest in

the world. But Angela Merkel and the Bundesbank have been holding out. They are demanding enforced austerity before they will consent to give any aid.

German capitalism dominates Europe. It has colonized Eastern Europe and profited from the poorer countries in southern Europe. The position of the German bankers is: It doesn't matter that we have exploited these countries. Now they are in debt and they have to pay. We, the German ruling class, are not going to pay.

U.S. finance capital, which has trillions of dollars directly or indirectly tied up in European finance and trade, is pressing hard for the German capitalists to pay for the bailout. Geithner went to a European finance ministers' meeting in Poland in September and told them as much. President Barack Obama has reiterated this ultimatum. But the German imperialist bankers have held out against the financial overlords on Wall Street. As the dispute continued, the debt crisis became even more severe two weeks ago.

Bankers and investors, fearing that government bonds they were holding might go bad, began to sell off the bonds and collect cash to cushion them from a crisis. Lending began to dry up. The U.S. bankers and the Federal Reserve, fearing a major crisis, blinked. After 10 days of secret negotiations orchestrated by the British government, the Federal Reserve bank, the central banks of Britain, Canada, Japan and Switzerland, and the European Central Bank agreed to pour dollars into Europe at a reduced rate in order to get lending going on a temporary basis until a settlement can be reached on how to save the euro.

German capital demands more austerity

On Dec. 9, there will be a meeting of all the governments to try to settle on a way to save the situation. The struggle over how to rescue the bankers rotates around a German proposal, partially supported by the French, to dictate budgetary guidelines to all debtor countries. This means that the European Union would examine budgets of countries before they were submitted to parliaments. The budgets could be vetoed and violators could be punished by the European Justice Council.

At this point, there is no agreement on this proposal, which would reinforce the domination of German capital in Europe.

Austerity programs for the masses have been shown to aggravate the capitalist crisis. Last fall, Britain instituted the harshest austerity program in its history, with a 20 percent across-the-board cut in spending. It began layoffs of workers with a goal of terminating up to 400,000 government

WW interview with

'SOLIDARITY'

As pressure builds for the Dec. 12 West Coast port shutdown, the capitalist owners and their media began a battle of ideas to blunt this powerful threat to their profits and control — even for a day.

Two International Longshore and Warehouse Union members — Clarence Thomas, who is a third-generation longshoreman in Oakland, and Leo Robinson, who is now retired — spoke with Workers World reporter Cheryl LaBash. Both men have held elected office in ILWU Local 10 and have been key labor activists during their years of work in the ports.

jobs. Social services were to be cut across the board. The result has been a drastic decline in the British economy. Now Prime Minister David Cameron is proposing even deeper cuts.

While all the bankers of Europe are anxious for austerity, the German imperialists are using the crisis to strengthen their stranglehold over Europe at the risk of precipitating a deepening of the economic crisis globally. In this connection it is worthwhile to note that, like the U.S. ruling class, the German ruling class is adventurist. Like the U.S., which has plunged into wars and occupations all over the world, defied international law and broken through all norms of international behavior, the German ruling class has initiated two world wars. Not to be outdone, the U.S. rulers threatened the whole world with thermonuclear war during the Cold War era.

The German imperialists are pursuing the economic version of "blood and iron" in their struggle against the U.S. and British imperialists. Despite their powerful industrial economy and banks, which make Germany the fourth largest economy in the world, they are still subordinate to U.S. and British imperialism. And the interimperialist struggle has taken a sharp economic form in the midst of the economic crisis.

Whatever happens at the European summit on "saving the eurozone" — which really means saving the profits of the eurozone bankers, Wall Street and Tokyo — there is no way around the fact that capitalism has reached a dead end on a world scale.

The capitalist system has not been able to grow its way out of the economic crisis. Four years plus into the crisis, the capitalist state still has to prop up the system with bailouts in the trillions of dollars. The system on its own cannot even stay afloat, let alone expand. Tens of millions of workers are unemployed or underemployed, and the world capitalists are struggling to avoid a renewed crisis — one that would be on top of the crisis that already exists for workers everywhere.

In this light the only path out of this crisis for the working class is resistance, mobilization and struggle. Millions of workers in Europe have gone on strike against austerity over the past year. So far the ruling classes have not retreated in the face of general strikes and demonstrations of a short duration. More sustained, more widespread struggle is on the order of the day.

In the U.S., the Occupy Wall Street movement has signaled an end to a long retreat in the struggle. It has lit a fire under sections of the labor movement and stimulated renewed resistance here. Hopefully, it is the beginning of a deepening and widening struggle which must eventually be directed against U.S. capitalism and the profit system, and turned into a struggle against the private property owners who comprise the core of the fabulously wealthy 1 percent.

Goldstein is the author of "Low-Wage Capitalism" and "Capitalism at a Dead End," both of which can be viewed at lowwagecapitalism.com. He can be contacted at goldstein.f@gmail.com.

BRITAIN

General strike shuts public sector

By John Catalinotto

More than 2 million workers walked out for 24 hours on Nov. 30 in England, Scotland and Wales in an action the union leadership called the largest in at least 30 years. Some say it was the biggest since the 1926 general strike. The strikers closed two-thirds of the schools, picked up no garbage, forced the postponement of 6,000 nonessential operations in the hospitals and did this defying weeks of anti-strike propaganda.

The issues grow out of the generalized ruling-class attack on the public sector workers in the form of "austerity." They include wage freezes while inflation continues to whittle down workers' standards of living; pension cuts arising from an

increase in pension ages, an increase in worker contributions and a change in pension calculations; and as many as 710,000 job eliminations in the public sector.

The Conservative Party-led government — even more viciously than Tony Blair's Labor government — has targeted public sector workers for the latest round of cuts. Private sector workers have already suffered large wage cuts since the Margaret Thatcher government in the 1980s broke some important strikes. Today's Conservative regime, with the support of the entire corporate media, including the Sun, the Daily Mail — that is, the openly anti-worker Murdoch press — spent weeks calling the public workers "privileged" and trying to undermine strike support.

The Labor Party, while not joining in

the attacks on the unions, nevertheless, did not themselves support the strike call.

The unions stayed strong. And the people backed the strikers. Some 61 percent, according to a BBC poll, considered the strike "justified" as did 67 percent of the women, 71 percent of people in Scotland and 79 percent of those between 18 and 24 years old. The latter group would be part of the "indignant ones" seizing the plazas of Spain, or in the Occupy Wall Street movement in the United States.

As in the U.S., public service workers in Britain are a large majority women, and are far from being privileged. And the Conservative government had announced cuts of 16 percent in public sector pay and benefits by 2015, and the 710,000

Continued on page 11

longshore workers on UNITY OF LABOR ABOVE ALL ELSE'

WW: The Nov. 21 ILWU Longshore Coast Committee memorandum states, "Any public demonstration is not a 'picketline' under the PCL&CA [Pacific Coast Longshore & Clerk's Agreement]. ... Remember, public demonstrations are public demonstrations, not 'picketlines.' Only labor unions picket as referenced in the contract." What is your reaction?

CLARENCE THOMAS: A picket line is a public demonstration — whether called by organized labor or not. It is legitimate. There are established protocols in these situations. To suggest to longshoremen that they shouldn't follow them demands clarification. It is one thing to state for the record that the union is not involved, but another thing to erase the historical memory of ILWU's traditions and practices included in the Ten Guiding Principles of the ILWU adopted at the 1953 biennial convention in San Francisco.

LEO ROBINSON: The international has taken the position somehow that the contract is more important than not only defending our interest in terms of this EGT [grain terminal jurisdictional dispute] but having a connection to the Occupy [Wall Street] movement in that when you go through the Ten Guiding Principles of the ILWU, we're talking about labor unity. Does that include the teachers? Does that include state, county and municipal workers? Those questions need to be analyzed as to who supports whom. The Occupy movement is not separate and apart from the labor movement.

CT: Labor is now officially part of the Occupy movement. That has happened. The recent [New York Times] article done by Steven Greenhouse on Nov. 9 is called 'Standing arm in arm.'

The Teamsters have been supported by the OWS against Sotheby's auction house. OWS has been supportive of Communication Workers in its struggle with Verizon. Mary Kay Henry, International President of the Service Employees, has called for expanding the Occupy movement by taking workers to Washington, D.C., to occupy Washington particularly Congress and congressional hearings demanding 15 million jobs by Jan. 1.

LR: There was the occupation in Madison, Wis. That was labor-led. People are trying to confuse the issue by saying we are somehow separated from the Occupy movement. More than anything else the Occupy movement is a direct challenge or raises the question of the the rights of capital as opposed to the rights of the worker. I don't understand that the contract supersedes the just demands of the labor movement. It says so right here in the 10 guiding principles of the ILWU.

Article 4 is very clear. Very clear. "To help any worker in distress' must be a daily guide in the life of every trade union and its individual members." Labor solidarity means just that. Unions have to accept the fact that solidarity of labor stands above all else, including even the so-called sanctity of the contract. We cannot adopt for ourselves the policies of union leaders who insist that because they have a contract, their members are compelled to perform work, even behind a picket line. It says picket line. It doesn't say union picket line. It says picket line.

CT: Only 7.2 percent of private sector workers have union representation today, the lowest since 1900. Facing a critical moment, the labor movement has been re-energized by the Occupy Wall Street movement.

LR: Any number of times this union [Local 10] has observed picket lines, including Easter Sunday 1977 when the community put up a picket line at Pier 27 to picket

South African cargo. Longshoremen observed that picket line for two days. So I don't understand how all of a sudden the sanctity of the contract outweighs the need to demonstrate solidarity. It just does not compute. It doesn't make sense.

WW: What were the similarities between that event and what is going on now with the Occupy movement?

CT: The first action against South African apartheid was a community picket line. It was not authorized by the union. It was a community picket line from start to finish.

LR: It was about 5,000 people out there on the Embarcadero [eastern waterfront and roadway of the Port of San Francisco] for two days running a community picket line opposing South African apartheid. Local 10 officers took the position that it was an unsafe situation and our members were not going to cross that picket line, period. It was ruled as such by the arbitrator.

WW: Who determines whether a situation is safe or unsafe?

LR: We have never waited for the employer to declare what is safe or unsafe. It is always the union that moves first. We don't ask the employers what is safe or unsafe. They wouldn't give a damn one way or the other as long as they got their ship worked. If the police have to escort you in or out, that is patently saying it is unsafe. What if someone decides to throw a rock while you're being escorted in by the police? Does it make it hurt any less? A longshoreman determines what is safe for him or her — on the job and off.

CT: Our members have been hurt by the police and so has the OWS movement. In 2003 when we were standing by at a picket, police shot our members with wooden bullets. In Longview, Wash., at the EGT Grain Terminal, ILWU members and their families have been hurt by the police. We don't want the police to do anything for us.



WW PHOTO: ARTURO J. PÉREZ SAAD
Leo Robinson



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL
Chris Silvera, Teresa Gutierrez, Julia Camagong, Clarence Thomas, Gilbert Johnson.

WW: What is happening at the grain terminal in Longview?

CT: Our union is at an historical juncture. Our jurisdiction is being challenged up and down the coast — the issue of logs and Local 10 and use of "robotics." There has been nothing like this since 1934. If ILWU members don't honor the community picket lines, it will cause an irreparable breach with the community. If the ILWU can't support the community, why should the community support the ILWU in 2014 contract negotiations or when the new grain agreement is up next year? Who knows what the employer has up their sleeve when they demanded only a one-year contract.

LR: Grain work provides 30 percent of our welfare contributions. Who knows ... let's say that EGT is successful. It will open the door for other grain operators to try to work anybody.

WW: Aren't the ports private?

CT: These ports are the people's ports. Ports belong to the people of the Pacific Coast. The money came from the taxpayers in California, Oregon and Washington. EGT was subsidized by the Port of Longview. So the people have the right to go down there and protest how their tax dollars have been ripped off.

WW: Wall Street is in New York City. What do the West Coast ports have to do with that?

LR: To show you the link, last year in the ILWU Dispatcher — a sister from

Local 10 was foreclosed on. I am certain she's not the only one.

CT: Fifty-one percent of Stevedoring Services of America is owned by Goldman Sachs. EGT is a multinational conglomerate trying to control the distribution of food products around the world. The face of Wall Street is in the ports.

WW: Any closing comments?

CT: The ILWU is not some special interest group. We are a rank-and-file militant, democratic union that has a long history of being in the vanguard of the social justice and labor movement.

We don't cross community picket lines. When people begin to do so they have completely turned their backs on the ILWU's 10 guiding principles. Is it coincidental that Harry Bridges' name has not been asserted in relation to the OWS movement and the history of militancy? Is it an accident? How can we not talk about Harry Bridges? That is how we got what we have today.

Clarence Thomas is past secretary-treasurer of ILWU Local 10 and co-chair of Million Worker March movement, which was initiated by Local 10 and supported by the ILWU Longshore Caucus. Leo Robinson is retired and co-founder of African American Longshore Coalition. He is a former member of the ILWU Local 10 executive board, a national convener of the MWM movement and its major benefactor.

West Coast Occupy Wall Street: 'Shut docks Dec. 12!'

Continued from page 1

anti-racist unity in their ranks" at www.workers.org/2011/us/ilwu_0922)

The West Coast Occupy movements are also aligning with the struggle of port truckers, who are fighting for the right to organize for union representation. Twenty-six of them were fired in Los Angeles for wearing Teamster jackets to work. Occupy LA and Long Beach are targeting SSA, an anti-union port terminal operator, majority owned by Goldman Sachs, the notorious Wall Street investment bank. Teamster president, Jimmy Hoffa Jr., has publicly expressed support for the Occupy movement.

Michael Novick of Anti-Racist Action, one of the main organizers at Occupy LA working on the port shutdown action in Los Angeles, told WW that the strategy will be to shut down three main targets. Novick states, "When we put the resolution through at the General Assembly in support of the port shutdown, it was

tied to building a general strike on May 1st of 2012 and building relations to the migrant rights movement."

Finally, the West Coast Occupy movements are targeting the ports as major commercial centers, showing that they can strike at the institutions which help to aggregate the wealth of the 1 percent by disrupting Wall Street on the waterfront. It's the history of the militant ILWU which enables this attack to have teeth. The ILWU rank and file have historically supported political struggles such as the anti-apartheid movement, the anti-war movement, in defense of Palestine in the face of attacks on Gaza, in support of the Wisconsin struggle against union busting, etc.

The 1 percent, under the banner of the Port of Oakland, launched the first volley of their assault on Dec. 4, with full-page ads in the San Francisco Chronicle and Oakland Tribune against the planned Occupy port blockade. They know all too well how powerful this movement has

become, evidenced by the historic general strike call and blockade of the Port of Oakland on Nov. 2, when the Occupy movement, with the support of the ILWU rank and file and port truckers, shut down the entire port.

The battle is just beginning. EGT is planning to bring a huge grain ship to the Port of Longview, sometime in December or early January, to unload the grain piled up there with the use of scab labor. That isn't going to happen without a major fight. Plans are in the works for phase two of this struggle. Caravans will be heading up to Longview to support the ILWU's fight to keep their jobs and maintain their union. Port truckers in Oakland have also had teach-ins to help their ranks understand what this struggle means to them. The battle is on!

For up-to-date information, see www.westcoastportshutdown.org. Also watch a behind-this-movement video at tinyurl.com/7hxtuh. □

The Egyptian elections: Why an Islamic sweep?

By Joyce Chediak

Egypt’s first significant election in 50 years showed a sweep for the Islamists. Why is this?

While the military government now says the turnout at the polls was 52 percent, lower than its earlier figure of 70 percent, many voters waited in line for hours to participate in the first of three elections for parliament. They saw the vote as a right won by the revolutionary movement.

Preliminary tallies gave the Muslim Brotherhood’s Freedom and Justice Party 40 percent of the vote and the Salafist Al Nour party 25 percent.

The Brotherhood is viewed as a moderate group, sometimes compared to the governing Islamic party of Turkey, which administers a nonreligious state. The Salafists are Islamic conservatives who seek separation of the sexes in most public places. They may seek to regulate the content of culture, education and other areas of society. While a large Brotherhood win was expected, the strong showing by Salafists was not.

What explains the Islamist win?

The timing of the elections favored the Muslim Brotherhood. In February, Egyptian Marxist Samir Amin predicted, “If the elections are immediate, many people will vote for the Muslims because they are organized, they have the media ... but if you allow for a year of real freedom, the left and the youth can then organize themselves.”

Certainly the Muslim Brotherhood did

everything it could to keep the elections immediate. Right before the elections the Brotherhood broke with the mass movement in the streets that was demanding an immediate end to military rule. It worked out a deal with the generals to support military rule until June on two conditions: that the army let the November elections proceed as planned and that it move up the presidential vote to June 2012 from 2013.

Rules for getting on the ballot made it prohibitively expensive for working-class groups and most left parties. Ballot status required parties to pull together a list of the names and addresses of 5,000 members, then purchase full-page ads in Egypt’s two main newspapers to publish the names.

Tunisians, Palestinians voted Islamic also

But this doesn’t explain why in Tunisia the Islamist Ennahda Party won a plurality of 37 percent of the national legislature in October. Tunisia has been considered one of the most secular of the Arab countries. This was the first election since a mass movement in January brought down the repressive rule of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Nor does it address why Palestinians in the Occupied Territories voted hands down for Hamas in their last elections. In the 2005 municipality election, Hamas, the Palestinian wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, got 73 percent. Voters in the 2006 Palestinian Legislative Council contest gave Hamas 74 seats as opposed to Fatah’s 45.

These votes speak to how very discredited the old regimes are, how they are associated with corruption at home and collaboration with the U.S. and Israel abroad, and how, in the eyes of many Arabs, an entirely different political current should get a chance to rule.

‘Secular’ equated to foreign intervention

All things Islam have been vilified in the most ignorant and racist way in the U.S. But this is not at all the case in the Middle East. In fact, just the opposite is true.

In Egypt today, even the word “secular” is tainted with the connotation of foreign intervention. Egyptians who favor separation of mosque and state are not even using this word. Instead, they are calling for a “civil” government or a government of “civilians.” For example, the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions calls for building a “national democratic civil state.”

Under a secular government, President Hosni Mubarak stole \$60 billion from the people of Egypt. His regime signed an agreement with Israel selling them natural gas at rates lower than those paid by Egyptians. This secular government sold off the state-controlled economy to multinational corporations, pleasing Wall Street banks but impoverishing the Egyptian people. And when the people exerted any rights, they were clubbed and jailed. This went on for 30 years.

The government in Tunisia and other long-standing Arab regimes is seen in the same way — corrupt and bowing to Israel and the U.S. And in the Occupied Terri-

tories, Fatah was seen as ruling through patronage and cronyism, as well as making many concessions to Israel.

Furthermore, the two countries in that region that have made significant economic gains for their populations, Iran and Turkey, have Islamist rulers.

Islamists seen as fighting Israel

Regaining the rights and territory of the Palestinian people is still a burning issue to Arab people. The current crop of leaders sat on their hands when Israel invaded Lebanon in 2006 and bombed Gaza in 2008-2009, disgusting their own populations. While giving lip service to the Palestinian cause, they really want to make a peace deal with Israel over the heads of their people.

Still spouting the old Arab nationalist slogan of “Arab unity” for public consumption, these regimes compete with each other to win the favor of the imperialists, to the shame of their populations. The last public vestige of this “unity” is the Arab League, whose members did not unite to sanction Israel for bombing Gaza, but who quickly acted together to sanction Libya and Syria and invite U.S.-NATO forces to bomb Libya.

Who has fought Israel? The Palestinian people under Hamas in Gaza fought back against the Israeli onslaught, preventing Israel from declaring a victory or imposing terms. Hezbollah, the national liberation movement in Lebanon — whose name means Party of God — is the only Arab force that has fought Israel and won. Twice this organization chased

SYRIA

Imperialists prepare for military intervention

By Joyce Chediak

The U.S.-NATO forces, using the United Nations and the Arab League as a cover, are positioning themselves for a military intervention in Syria. At the same time, they have upped their economic war on the government led by Bashir al-Assad.

The scenario resembles what was done against the Libyan government before the U.S.-NATO bombardment began. This time, however, Turkey has joined the imperialist camp in applying economic pressure and letting its soil be used as a rear base for Assad opponents.

This intervention has nothing to do with any repression the Assad government has visited on any people in Syria. It is not meant to “save” the Syrian people any more than the massive bombardment of Libya was meant to “save” Libyans. The goal is to make Syria an imperialist puppet and to destroy the strategic alliance it has with Hezbollah, the national liberation movement in Lebanon, and with Iran. This would be a major blow not just to the people of Syria, but to the whole region.

Sanctions have been imposed on Syria by the U.S., the European Union, the Arab League countries and Turkey. In an unprecedented move, the Arab League has even suspended the membership of Syria — home of one of the greatest Arab civilizations.

In close coordination with the White House, NATO member Turkey has frozen Syria’s financial assets and cut off transactions with Syria’s Central Bank. Turkey was one of Syria’s biggest trading part-

ners. On Dec. 1, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden urged Turkey to impose sanctions against Iran, too. This week Britain also increased sanctions against Iran.

Sanctions are meant to destroy the Syrian economy and to isolate the Assad government from its business support and the population. Money transfers into and out of Syria are blocked, and Syrians cannot use their credit cards abroad.

How Syrian gov’t is being ‘set up’

Like Libya, the Syrian government is being accused of atrocities. The information these charges are based upon does not come from independent human rights organizations. As reported in the establishment Western media and Al-Jazeera, this information comes from the Syrian opposition.

One group quoted widely, the Local Coordinating Committees of Syria, is part of the Syrian National Council, which seeks to overthrow the Assad government.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and Western European countries making the accusations

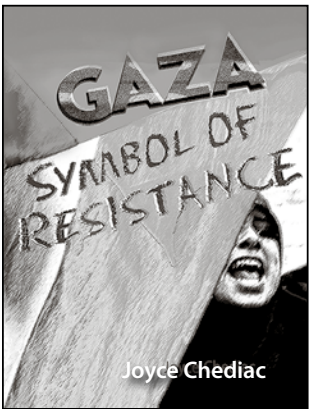
against Syria are themselves guilty of decades of atrocities against the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries.

The U.S. and its allies were unable to get the U.N. Security Council to level sanctions against Syria as it did against Libya with Resolution 1973 last March. Russia and China vetoed this resolution, based on that experience. So the U.S. and the EU convened a so-called “independent” United Nations Human Rights Commission, which has since accused Assad of “crimes against humanity.”

Now the Western powers are talking about “a growing international consensus to take action.” (New York Times, Dec. 1) This “international consensus” is meant as a cover for a U.S.-NATO-Turkey military intervention to recolonize Syria.

Foreign intervention worsens crisis

Already foreign intervention is sharpening Syria’s crisis. Turkey has provided a rear base and an arms source on Turkish soil near the Syrian border for the military opposition to the Assad government.



GAZA: Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WW, edited by Joyce Chediak

The compelling story of how Gazans withstood blockade and bombardment only to stand tall, refusing to give up the right to determine their own lives and to choose their own government; how Gaza’s courage inspired a worldwide solidarity movement determined to break the blockade and deliver aid; exposes the forces behind the punishment of Gaza, and how a growing people’s media is breaking the mainstream media’s information blockade on this event.

Available at Amazon and bookstores around the country
<http://gazaresistancebook.com/>

According to the Canadian investigative group, Global Research, this armed opposition is funded by the U.S., Turkey and other NATO allies. This has fueled the fighting so that on Nov. 30 the U.N. declared Syria in a “state of civil war.”

Meanwhile, the Arab League, portrayed as a mediator, has called only for the Assad government to stop fighting. It has made no such demand of the armed opposition.

The Arab League, despite its name, really works against the interests of the Arab people. It invited the U.S. and NATO to bomb Libya last March. The Arab League is dominated by Saudi Arabia and the tiny Persian Gulf emirates, which willingly increased their oil production so the Western powers could impose sanctions on oil producers like Libya, Iran and Syria without having to worry about oil shortfalls.

A U.S.-NATO-Turkey attack on Syria may be coming soon. The Cuban news agency, Granma, reported on Nov. 25 that a U.S. aircraft carrier was approaching the coast of Syria, that the U.S. embassy there ordered its citizens to leave immediately, and that France has proposed a formal NATO military intervention into Syria.

What’s at stake in Syria?

With Syria there is a great deal at stake for the workers and rural poor, not only in that country, but also throughout the Middle East. Syria is in a strategic anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist alliance with Iran, with Hezbollah in Lebanon and with Hamas in Gaza. This alliance is crucial in holding back Israel, which has no declared borders, from militarily attacking and taking over the whole area. □

Israeli troops out of Lebanon — in 2000 and 2006.

Meanwhile, many Egyptians have observed the Islamists in their mosques and neighborhoods and see how they operate. They are a known entity. Many provide social services, food and medicine in poor areas where the Egyptian government does not. So, they have concluded, why not elect them to office and see what they will do.

Islamists are rooted in a religion and philosophy indigenous to the Middle East. Embracing them is also a reaction to the decades of Western colonialism's theft of natural resources and repression of the people of the Middle East, either directly or through bankrupt puppet regimes. Many people feel that the West has little or nothing of value to offer them.

This is the level of consciousness revealed by the recent elections in Tunisia and Egypt.

What will the Islamists do?

Islamist groups, however, like their Christian counterparts, are not all the same. For example, Hezbollah, a national liberation movement under the Israeli gun, is very different than the Islamic Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which fronts for Washington and opposes every progressive move in the Middle East. And groups change depending on the pressures put upon them.

How will the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafists relate to imperialism, to Israel and to Egypt's workers? These are key questions in a situation that remains fluid.

Just days after the election, there is already friction between the Brotherhood and the U.S.-armed Egyptian military. The military, which wants to keep power over parliament, is claiming the large vote as a mandate for its continued rule. The Brotherhood says the large vote shows the people favor civilian rule over the military.

At this time the Brotherhood is trying to distance itself from the very conservative Salafists and has said it will not coalesce with them.

How will this new government function? Will it guarantee the rights and safety of non-Muslim minorities, like the Coptic Christian community, long under heavy attack by right-wingers and the government?

Will it be pressured to open the Rafa border and end the blockade of Gaza? Or will it keep the Egyptian treaty with Israel, a lynchpin of Washington's domination of the Middle East that was imposed by the Camp David Accords?

Will the multitudes come back into the streets and, if so, over what issues?

What will the left parties and the youth do and say to bring clarity and to win over the people? How will this impact Egyptian women?

The Egyptian election is just one arena in a profound mass struggle that continues to unfold. □

Throughout Latin America

Student protests spread

By Gene Clancy

As militant protests and occupation movements have continued to grow across Europe, the Middle East and North America, a wave of student protests, backed by organized labor and community groups, has been sweeping across Latin America.

On Nov. 24, in support of Chile's ongoing student protests and voicing their own demands, thousands of people took to the streets in more than a dozen cities in Latin America on the same day demanding quality public education.

The Latin American March for Education was called by the Chilean students confederation, and demonstrations were held in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The sheer size and breadth of the demonstrations, in addition to their international character, show that a significant movement is taking place.

Some 10,000 protesters marched through the streets of Santiago, Chile, demanding reforms of the educational system, as they have been doing for months. Again, there was a crackdown by the anti-riot police, who arrested some 60 people.

Police also attacked demonstrators in Colombia, where the U.S. has a significant military presence.

"Today is a very special day because we are marching throughout Latin America," stated Esteban Miranda, president of the University of Chile Law Students Center. (Inter Press Service News Agency [ips.org] Nov. 25)

He said the hemispherewide mobilization was a demonstration of the similarity of demands by students in the region, as well as of the support for the movement in Chile.

An education law enacted by the 1973-1990 dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet set off a process of decentralization and privatization that gave private schools free rein to pursue profit and use entrance exams to select their students. Chilean students, backed by labor and other groups, have been protesting those measures since February.

The march in downtown Santiago was supported by organizations of students from secondary schools, technical, vocational and arts institutes, as well as trade unions and teachers.

Luis Garrido, a representative of the Sindicato Único de Trabajadores de la Educación (SUTE) teachers union, said that the movement has broad objectives: "Capitalism is profits, business, buying and selling, and that is not what educators are about," said Garrido. He added that the movement in which teachers and students have come together is demanding a

"social transformation." (IPS, Nov. 25)

Under a steady drizzle, tens of thousands of young people poured onto the streets in the main cities of Colombia in response to the nationwide call to march for quality public education for all. The protests followed a massive march of 200,000, which took place in Bogotá on Nov. 10, to press the right-wing government of Juan Manuel Santos to withdraw a controversial bill to privatize education along the lines of the Chilean model.

"Today we are mobilising for all of Latin America because we are suffering from governments that do not recognise education as a fundamental right," said Gladys Ríos, a social science student at the University of Antioquia in northwest Colombia. (IPS, Nov. 25)

Camila Vallejo, a leader of the student movement in Chile, characterized the movement in Chile and across Latin America as being more than a movement for educational reform:

"We do not want to improve the actual system; we want a profound change — to stop seeing education as a consumer good, to see education as a right where the state provides a guarantee."

"Why do we need education? To make profits? To make a business? Or to develop the country and have social integration and development? Those are the issues in dispute." (Guardian, Aug. 24) □

Tijuana conference builds unity in the Americas

The eighth U.S./Cuba/Mexico/Latin America Labor Conference concluded Dec. 4 in Tijuana, Mexico. This meeting, and the three days of classes that preceded it, amplified an Encuentro Sindical Nuestra América initiative to unify the union and working-class social movements throughout the Americas. ESNA coordinators Juan Castillo from Uruguay, João Batista from Brazil, Oliverio Reyes from Mexico and Raymundo Navarro from Cuba guided the discussion throughout the week in Tijuana.

The conference coincided with the founding of a new Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) taking place in Caracas, Venezuela. Although CELAC excludes the imperialist U.S. and Canadian governments, ESNA welcomes workers and union representatives from both countries. ESNA's fourth meeting was held in Managua, Nicaragua,



Anti-imperialist solidarity at Tijuana conference.

in August; Mexico City is the venue for the fifth meeting planned for late May.

Mexican Electrical Workers International Secretary Humberto Montes de Oca and Sergio Tolano, president of the Cananea, Mexico, miners union, participated.

International Longshore and Warehouse Union member Clarence Thomas addressed the positive interaction of the Occupy Wall Street movement with port workers. World Federation of Trade Unions-Americas representative, Gilda Chacón, outlined the organization's history, revitalization and relation to today's struggles. Cristina Vasquez, Western representative of Workers United, and Alicia Jrapko, U.S. coordinator of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, urged a greater union voice to free the Cuban Five, who have been unjustly held in U.S. prisons for more than 13 years. The final panel debated views of the migrant/immigrant struggle.

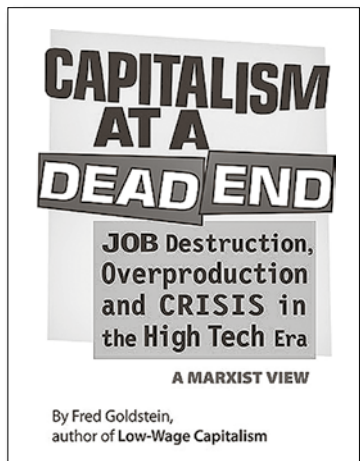
The U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, Unión del Barrio and the International Action Center organized the classes and conference. View partial videos at <http://tinyurl.com/d2x2wey>. There will be fuller reports in upcoming issues of Workers World.

— Cheryl LaBash

TOP TEN Reasons that Big Oil & the Pentagon still hate Iran

1. Unbelievably, the Iranian government thinks that Iranian oil actually belongs to Iran.
2. We still really, really, really miss the Shah, who didn't think that way.
3. For some unfathomable reason, people in Iran are angry that we keep threatening to attack them with the planes, missiles and rockets we have surrounded them with.
4. Our attempts to starve Iran into submission through sanctions are routine. Nothing can justify the horror of stones being thrown at the British Embassy.
5. Since the Pentagon has thousands of nuclear weapons, it seems only fair that Iran should never have any.
6. We are completely unfamiliar with the term "peaceful purposes."
7. Incredibly, the Iranian government thinks the Holocaust in World War II happened in Germany and Europe, not in Palestine or any other Middle Eastern country.
8. Iran's solidarity with the people of Lebanon and Palestine gives us the jitters.
9. The Iranian government is for some reason not inclined to invest its funds in real estate securities from Wall Street
10. War with Iran would be a great diversion from unemployment here in the U.S., and would supplement all the other wars we are fighting.

— Paul Wilcox



www.LowWageCapitalism.org
www.workers.org/books

HUNGER: a crime of capitalism

Supermarket shelves are abundantly stocked with everything from soup to nuts. Colorful produce in reds, yellows and greens is plentiful and inviting.

It is a myth that food scarcity exists here. There is enough food grown and produced in this country to feed everyone.

Yet 16 million children and 33 million adults frequently go to bed hungry. This represents 14.5 percent of U.S. households. It is the situation even though nearly 46 million people —one-half of them children —receive food stamps. These benefits are woefully inadequate.

This phenomenon exists in the prosperous United States, where the top 1 percent is getting richer. As the income gap grows, the working class is getting poorer.

The ongoing capitalist economic crisis has affected the health and well-being of millions. As workers have been laid off, losing jobs and often homes, it's harder for them to purchase enough food for their families. Many sacrifice their own sustenance so that their children can eat.

Today, 21 million low-income children receive subsidized school lunches, many for the first time, as their parents' situations have grown more dire in every state. In big cities such as Dallas, Newark and Chicago, 85 percent of students are eligible for subsidized lunches.

Why, despite the availability of food, are so many people going without proper nourishment?

A confluence of factors comes into play, making it hard for many parents to put food on the table. First, food prices are high and always increasing. Second, incomes have decreased during the recession, with 25 million to 30 million people now unemployed or underemployed. Meanwhile, a half of U.S. workers — 75 million — are annually paid \$26,000 or less. National, gender and age discrimination affect the incomes of women, people of color and youth. As a result, a third of African-American and Latino/a families lack the resources to purchase sufficient food. Additionally, healthier

food items are often pricier, an issue for low-income families.

At the crux of this crisis is something that liberal think tanks and food research centers won't say: Capitalist food production is to blame. Under capitalism, food is a commodity. It is produced to garner profits.

Corporate ownership of the multibillion-dollar food industry puts affordable, healthy food out of the reach of many low-income families. Children can go hungry or be malnourished as far as the capitalists are concerned. If workers don't have the money to buy food, too bad.

That governmental food programs exist at all is a result of mass struggles. They are not a given. In fact, they face constant attack by rapacious right-wingers in Congress —many of them millionaires themselves —who represent the superrich and seek to dismantle essential social programs.

The Senate and House allot trillions of dollars to Wall Street banks. They grant huge subsidies to transnational agribusinesses like Cargill. The Pentagon just has to ask, and their weapons and wars will be funded, no matter the cost.

Yet, meeting human needs —even for food, the most essential ingredient for sustaining life —is not intrinsic to capitalism, not here, not abroad. Imperialism has resulted in vast, global impoverishment, with a billion people, including children, hungry and/or malnourished worldwide.

Under capitalism, life's necessities are not guaranteed. Food is not considered a right. If this were a compassionate society, everyone would be assured a plentiful, healthy diet. However, capitalism is not such a system.

Workers World Party insists that every human being has the right to ample, nutritious food. As part of our struggle history, our organization has launched mass campaigns calling for rollbacks in food prices and demanding the government distribute "surplus" food to the hungry.

Food is a right!
Feed the people, not the Pentagon!
Fund nutrition programs, not Wall Street! □

Message to Occupy Philly

The police are not 'our friends'

By Philadelphia Workers World Party

Nov. 30 - Some members of Occupy Philly want to keep insisting that "the police are our friends." They are "our relatives," some say.

Some of our relatives may be right-wingers who support what the 1 percent does. That makes them politically "right" but not correct — just relatives. There is nothing one can do about who you're connected to by blood — but any thinking person can choose whom you consider "friends."

Friends do not beat up on other friends. Friends do not open cans of pepper spray into the faces and throats of their friends. Friends do not trample each other purposely on horseback. Friends do not stab one another. Friends do not arrest one another. Friends do not bring one another to court — or threaten to imprison one another. Friends do not purposely injure each other so severely that it leads to hospitalization.

When you say "We did nothing to provoke the police," couldn't this be interpreted in the oppressed communities that they "did something" to provoke the police? Is this the message the Occupy movement, which claims to stand for social change, really wants to convey?

We ask you to consider how this sounds to members of the Black and other oppressed communities, who also may have relatives who are police, but who have repeatedly been victims of police brutality. These communities are also part of the 99 percent — mostly on the bottom economic rungs.

Some members of Occupy Philly say that "Police are part of the 99%" or that they are "union members." The Fraternal Order of Police claims to be a "union" representing police. But police have never functioned on behalf of the economically disadvantaged. That is not part of their history. Their role has been, and remains, one of protecting the private property interests of the 1 percent. Failing to do this, they would be fired.

The police have systematically been used to break strikes of other unions, thus calling into question the validity of their "union" status. It does not matter what class or economic strata an individual comes from. What matters is which class or economic strata they serve. The FOP has long ago given up the right to be classified as a "union." Just ask Black police officers who have been forced to file charges of racism against this organization.

The police department in Philadelphia was formed in the 1800s by organizing gangs of Irish immigrants to be used against the growing Abolitionist movement and later freed Black people moving to the North. This racist history carries forth into the 20th century and to the present.

Black movements targeted by police

During Frank Rizzo's tenure as police commissioner in the 1970s, the predominantly white police force was feared and hated in the Black and Latino/a communities because of its brutality and racism.

Police attacks on the Black Panther Party, the MOVE Organization and the public led to many demonstrations. This period is chronicled in the documentary film "Black and Blue."

Black journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal wrote about many of these cases. Abu-Jamal was also targeted by the police. In December 1981 he was shot, kicked and beaten by cops and subsequently sent to death row for allegedly killing police officer Daniel Faulkner. Abu-Jamal continues to

maintain his innocence. Millions of supporters around the world maintain that he was framed by the cops, who were desperate to silence his "voice of the voiceless."

During a 1978 confrontation with police in Powelton Village, four cops dragged MOVE member Delbert Africa by his hair, then kicked him in the head, kidneys and groin. This brutality was captured on video and later led to the indictment of three officers on assault charges. In February 1981, a judge acquitted the cops. Delbert Africa was subsequently arrested and is now one of the MOVE 9, prisoners serving a 30-to-100-year term. The three acquitted cops went on to participate in the murderous assault on the MOVE house on Osage Avenue on May 16, 1985. A bomb was dropped on the house, killing 11 children, women and men and burning down the entire block.

Philadelphia police are not only brutal. They are notorious repeat offenders.

From 1989 to 1995, there were 2,000 documented citizen complaints against the Philadelphia Police Department. During a two-year period in the mid-1990s the city paid \$20 million in damages to 225 people who were beaten, shot, harassed or otherwise mistreated by police. The 39th Police District scandal in 1995 led to the dismissal of 1,400 criminal cases where cops ignored suspects' rights and sometimes framed them outright.

In 2009, a group of Black Philadelphia police officers filed a federal lawsuit against their department, alleging an online forum geared toward city police is "infested with racist, white supremacy, and anti-African-American content."

Early in the morning of November 30, 2011, hundreds of cops, some on horses, evicted Occupy Philly from City Hall after midnight. Some police violence occurred, with 50 arrested. The video can be seen here: <http://occupyphillymedia.org/video/police-attack-occupy-philly>

Similar raids and attacks took place in Los Angeles this morning. This is not by accident. Yes, the police could have demonstrated more brutality, as they have in numerous other cities where the Occupy movement has come under attack. That Philly and LA cops showed even limited "restraint" had more to do with the images that the two cities, which are most identified with police brutality, hoped to project, than any other factor.

Had this been a "protest" called by the right-wing Tea Party, there would never have been a police presence. The police would have looked the other way — as they have repeatedly when Tea Party activists show up in public bearing arms.

If the Occupy movement is serious about standing up for the rights of the majority of people whose living standards have been pushed down under the weight of a global economic crisis — which has only benefited the very wealthy — then we also have to be serious about the role played by the state apparatus that protects and defends the economic system that allowed this to happen.

While we were focusing our energy on the arrests of our friends, a piece of legislation passed the U.S. Senate today that should have all of us up in arms.

The Senate voted on a bill that would define the whole of the United States as a "battlefield" and allow the U.S. military to arrest and imprison "American citizens" in their own backyard without charges or trial. This should be sounding an alarm with every Occupy participant across the U.S. because this is directed against the movement we are part of. □

MUNDO OBRERO

Desde Cap-Haïtien a Port-au-Prince

Los/as haitianos/as luchan contra la miseria

Continúa de página 12

construir oposición a la ocupación de la ONU en Haití. (Haïti-Liberté, 23 de nov.)

El Movimiento por la Libertad, Igualdad y Fraternidad para Todos/as los/as Haitianos/as (Moleghaf — derivado de su nombre en criollo haitiano) celebró una militante marcha de cientos de personas desde Fort Nacional, una comunidad muy pobre y de clase trabajadora en Port-au-Prince, al Ministerio de Asuntos Sociales. Los/as manifestantes exigían el fin del hambre, del desempleo, de la miseria, de la vivienda decrepita y de las terribles

condiciones de vida — incluyendo la falta de agua potable, saneamiento y escuelas para los/as niños/as.

Días después tuvieron una línea de piquete frente al ministerio — una de una serie de protestas que habían empezado hace 10 meses. En octubre hubo un número de arrestos allí.

Estas acciones demuestran una voluntad por parte de progresistas haitianos/as de enfrentarse al estado y a la ocupación de la ONU y de levantar cuestiones que tienen directa relevancia para el pueblo haitiano. □

AFRICA 2011

PART
2

U.S. & French imperialism on the continent

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Washington and its NATO allies have intensified their military operations on the African continent. Nevertheless, the unequal distribution of wealth and economic power between the imperialist states and the oppressed postcolonial nations has continued to spark mass demonstrations and rebellions in various geopolitical regions on the continent.

The war against Libya represented the first major operation of the U.S. Africa Command, which was formed in 2008. The people of this oil-producing North African state put up formidable resistance to this intervention. It took six months for the war to drive the Libyan government from the capital of Tripoli and another two months to take the Jamahiriya strongholds of Sirte and Bani Walid. (Translation of Jamahiriya from Arabic means “the state of the masses.”)

Rebel forces patched together under the banner of the National Transitional Council could not have toppled Col. Muammar Gadhafi’s government without U.S.-NATO’s combined airstrikes, naval blockades, economic sanctions, intelligence operatives, special forces and their regional allies. Even this massive bombing, the murder of thousands of Libyans and the seizure of its national wealth cannot ensure its stability for imperialism. Resistance to these neocolonial designs continues.

U.S.-French base in the Horn of Africa

In former French colony Djibouti, the U.S. and France maintain a 6,500-troop military base. Both imperialist countries operate in neighboring Somalia, leading a combined effort to liquidate the Al-Shabaab Islamic resistance movement they call a “terrorist” al-Qaida affiliate.

The Kenyan Defense Forces have ground troops in Somalia supported by Ethiopia, African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) troops and Transitional Federal Government soldiers. Washington finances these African troops, and the Pen-

tagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and the French military support them from the air and sea. Israel deploys drones.

Despite French and U.S. troop presence in Djibouti, its people erupted in February with widespread social unrest. Mass demonstrations and rebellions resulted in government repression leaving several people dead and injured.

The military alliance between Djibouti’s government and the U.S. and France has brought no economic benefits to this country of less than 1 million people with a gross domestic product of only \$982 million. The country’s location on lucrative Red Sea shipping lanes gives it a strategic interest.

In November, it was announced that Djibouti will become more directly involved in the current war against Somalia, with the possible deployment of so-called peacekeeping troops to join AMISOM in Mogadishu. The country has also been the location for training the U.S.-backed Somalia TFG military forces as well as hosting “reconciliation” talks for the country that has not had an internationally recognized government in over two decades.

Defense Professional website says, “Djibouti is seeking to play a stabilizing role in the frequently tense regional politics of the Horn of Africa.” (Nov. 8) Objectively the imperialists are using Djibouti’s government to establish their broader political and military influence in Africa.

Burkin Faso & Ivory Coast

Two other former French colonies in West Africa, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast, illustrate the impact of the world economic crisis and increased militarism.

In Burkina Faso between February and April, President Blaise Compaore’s Western-allied regime was forced to place the country under curfew after a mutiny within the armed forces and the police accompanied nationwide protests in response to the rising cost of living.

“Koudougou, located 100km west of Ouagadougou [the capital], was the birth-

place of a wave of protests in the country two months ago, placing growing pressure on Compaore, who has been in power for 24 years. The first protest in Koudougou took place on Feb. 22 when students took to the streets, saying a school pupil said to have died of meningitis was in fact tortured and killed in police custody.” (AFP, April 28)

This same AFP article also pointed out: “Allegations of police impunity, torture and cover-ups and the high cost of living have fueled mounting protests by all sectors of the population against Compaore’s regime. The country is also beset by woe-ful social conditions, with much of the 16 million-strong population living on barely \$1 a day, while prices of basic goods continue to rise.”

Following unrest, President Compaore dismissed his government’s cabinet. Nevertheless, without a major restructuring of political and economic relations with France and the imperialist states in general, there will be no real progress for the majority of Burkina Faso’s workers, farmers and unemployed.

Developments in Ivory Coast exposed escalating French military aggression in Africa. The imperialists took advantage of a months-long dispute over the results of a run-off presidential election between Alassane Ouattara and Laurent Gbagbo. Paris and Washington sided with Ouattara and sought to remove Gbagbo, the incumbent, from office under the guise of following international law.

GREECE

General strike confronts bankers’ prime minister

By **G. Dunkel**

The day after a general strike brought hundreds of thousands of workers into the streets and shut the country down for the seventh time this year, Prime Minister Lucas Papademos told the European Union and international leaders that his government is still “determined” to continue with austerity policies that have lowered the purchasing power of poorer Greeks by 70 percent. (Guardian, Dec. 2)

Papademos is a former vice-president of the European Central Bank. Under orders from European finance capital, he replaced George Papandreou as prime minister in early November.

“The government may have changed but the policies it is intent on pursuing are totally unjust and do nothing to relieve recession, create development or improve the economy,” said Yiannis Panagopoulos, head of the Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE), at a rally. “For this reason, alone, the government should expect sustained battle. We will resist. We will not desist.”

Teachers, tax collectors, doctors, lawyers, civil servants, transport workers, custom officials and sanitation workers walked off the job. Major tourist sites were closed and ferries that connect the mainland to the islands were also kept in port as dock workers stopped working. Air travel was also disrupted.

“People should not be afraid to rise up and go on the attack,” said Aleka

Papariga, general secretary of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE). “To do otherwise will mean we will all end up

After French paratroopers overthrew and captured Gbagbo in April, he was subsequently kidnapped and transported to a detention facility first in Ivory Coast and eventually to The Hague, Netherlands. There he is slated to be tried for alleged war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

The ICC has focused exclusively on the harassment, persecution and indictment of African leaders. These include President Omar Hussein al-Bashir of Sudan and the martyred Col. Muammar Gadhafiof Libya and members of his family and government.

Following the massive bombing of Libya and the government’s overthrow, the ICC suddenly abandoned plans to place Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, Moammar Gadhafi’s son, on trial. The Western-backed rebel forces had arrested him in November. The ICC chief prosecutor’s recent visit to Libya resulted in an announcement that the imperialist-installed rebels would be allowed to prosecute Seif and to also seek the death penalty in the event that he is found guilty of purported “war crimes.”

Governments and mass organizations in Africa have condemned the ICC for targeting continental leaders and organizations and for its refusal to hold the imperialists accountable for numerous war crimes in Africa and throughout the world. Over the last year the U.S., France, Britain, other NATO states and Israel have killed thousands of Africans in Libya, Somalia, Ivory Coast, Egypt and Sudan. □

BRITAIN

General strike

Continued from page 6

job cuts, while it slashed child tax credit for low-paid workers, which will throw 100,000 more children into poverty.

One observer noted that most of the workers were striking for the first time in their lives. Hundreds of thousands also marched in 1,000 separate labor marches throughout Britain. As many as 100,000 people marched in London, another 20,000 in Manchester, and in Birmingham 15,000 marched through the city center, despite attempts to ban the action.

Some 10,000 marched in both Glasgow and Edinburgh in Scotland, plus 5,000 in Cardiff, in Wales. In Belfast, in British-occupied Ireland, 15,000 workers marched.

The photos of the strikes at progressive newspaper websites show the leading role of women in many of the actions, and that Black and Asian workers were present and active.

While Britain’s economy is supposedly sounder than that of Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece, its working class suffers from similar cuts in wages and benefits, and growing insecurity. One in five youth can’t find work, and the unemployment rate has been growing. Family heads are cutting their spending on food and heat in order to be able to pay for their housing.

In addition, pay inequality is growing rapidly. In 1979, the top one-thousandth of the population in earnings got 1.3 percent of the total earnings. In 2007, they received 6.5 percent. This trend is expected to continue until the inequality is “equivalent to the level known in the English Victorian era.” (Figaro, Nov. 22)

A year ago there were massive student demonstrations in Britain protesting vast tuition increases at universities. There was also a large demonstration of workers and students earlier this year. Over the summer, there was a rebellion sparked by a police killing in the inner cities in a few regions where young people, mostly but not exclusively from Black and Asian communities, fought with police.

The experience of these different sectors of the population may explain why the BBC poll found such generalized support for the strikers despite the propaganda blitz by the ruling-class media and the government. They each had come under attack from the same forces that attacked the workers in the weeks leading up to Nov. 30. And they each were victims of the same lying machine.

The Nov. 30 general strike showed the potential for putting all those struggles together. □

Huelga general en Portugal

Trabajadores europeos resisten toma de banqueros

Por John Catalinotto

Más de 3 millones de trabajadores/as en Portugal abandonaron sus trabajos el 24 de noviembre para protestar contra las medidas de austeridad y la toma de control de la economía de su país por la “Troika” - la Unión Europea, el Banco Central Europeo y el Fondo Monetario Internacional. Esta toma se ha hecho con la complicidad de los grandes capitalistas portugueses y sus partidos políticos.

La huelga general paralizó el transporte público así como 600 vuelos de avión y cerró fábricas en todo el país. Decenas de miles de personas marcharon en Lisboa y en otras ciudades como parte de la acción de los/as obreros/as. Voceros de la CGTP-IN, la principal confederación sindical detrás de la huelga, la calificó como la mayor huelga general jamás vista en este país de 11 millones de personas. La

CGTP-IN dijo que las acciones de los/as obreros/as continuarán en las próximas semanas. (Cgtp.pt)

Un bloque centroderechista formado por el Partido Popular y el Partido Social Demócrata recientemente se hizo cargo del gobierno que había estado administrado por el mal llamado Partido Socialista — que también había estado llevando a cabo medidas de austeridad. Todos estos partidos apoyaron la oferta con la Troika que se supone traiga un rescate de US \$100 mil millones para salvar la deuda de Portugal. A cambio, el gobierno está imponiendo un programa de austeridad muy anti obrero que incluye recortes de empleos y aumento de impuestos.

Tanto el Partido Comunista Portugués como el Bloque de Izquierda se opusieron al acuerdo.

El nuevo gobierno recortó por la mitad los bonos de fin de año para todos/as los/

as trabajadores/as y cancelará por completo el pago de bonos por días feriados y de fin de año para los/as funcionarios públicos en el 2012. Los servicios de salud también están siendo reducidos. Se ha ampliado la jornada laboral en media hora.

Como resultado de la actual crisis capitalista que comenzó en 2008 y los recortes ya realizados en los programas gubernamentales y sociales, el país está en su peor recesión en más de tres décadas. El desempleo más el subempleo llega al 18,2 por ciento de la fuerza de trabajo. A pesar de la oferta, la Fitch Ratings, la más pequeña de las “tres grandes” firmas de calificación crediticia, redujo su calificación para los bonos portugueses a nivel de bonos basura el 24 de noviembre.

Una de las pancartas en Lisboa leía: “Sólo la lucha nos puede dar lo que están a punto de quitar”. Muchas leen “Oponte a la explotación y al empobrecimiento” y “La lucha continúa” (fotos PCP) Reuters informó que una consigna favorita era ¡”España, Grecia, Irlanda, Portugal, nuestra lucha es internacional”!

Los regímenes de los banqueros en Europa

La adquisición bancaria virtual de muchos gobiernos europeos indica la importancia de esta última consigna. En noviembre, “tecnócratas” nombrados a dedo y relativamente desconocidos como políticos, sustituyeron al extravagante primer ministro multimillonario derechista, Silvio Berlusconi en Italia y al primer ministro de tercera generación George Papandreou en Grecia. En Portugal y más recientemente en España, los gobiernos de centro-derecha que están

aún más estrechamente vinculados a los bancos, reemplazaron a ministros nominalmente de centro-izquierda — que también habían llevado a cabo planes de austeridad, pero a un ritmo más lento.

En Grecia, los trabajadores del Hellenic Steel Co. en Aspropyrgos, un suburbio de Atenas, han estado en huelga desde el 1 de noviembre. Están exigiendo la reincorporación inmediata de 34 de sus compañeros de trabajo que habían sido despedidos. En una resolución, pidieron a la clase obrera y a todos/as los/as pobres que les apoyasen con cualquier forma disponible de solidaridad. (Inter.kke.gr) La mayor confederación sindical griega, PAME, cercana al Partido Comunista de Grecia (KKE), ha mantenido regularmente huelgas generales.

En España, seis columnas de manifestantes representando a “los indignados”, cuyo movimiento comenzó en mayo pasado, comenzaron a marchar hacia el centro municipal desde diferentes barrios de Madrid el 28 de noviembre, terminando en la Plaza de Neptuno frente al Congreso de diputados. Allí, 2.000 personas exigieron el fin a los despidos, la inseguridad laboral, los recortes y la privatización de los servicios públicos; agitando para la realización de una huelga general.

La incapacidad del capitalismo para recuperarse de esta crisis del sistema que estalló en 2008 y que ahora está en erupción por segunda vez en Europa, ha amenazado las condiciones de vida de la clase obrera europea, golpeando primero a los países con economías más débiles. Esto renueva la necesidad del sentimiento internacionalista contenido en la pancarta colgada por el KKE en la Acrópolis ateniense hace un año: ¡”Pueblos de Europa, levantaos”! □

Cindy Sheehan plantea lucha para liberar a los Cinco Cubanos

Por Cheryl LaBash
Holguín, Cuba

El VII Coloquio Internacional por la libertad de los Cinco Cubanos concluyó en esta ciudad oriental de Cuba el 19 de noviembre. Representantes de comités internacionales que han movilizado parlamentos, sindicatos, ganadores/as de premios Nobel y millones de personas en los últimos 13 años de injusto encarcelamiento en EE.UU. de estos cinco heroicos hombres cubanos, planearon la siguiente fase en una semana de eventos.

Ofreciendo un conmovedor compromiso por una renovada movilización en los EE.UU. con la confianza de que este esfuerzo va a liberarlos, la conocida activista anti-guerra y por la justicia social estadounidense Cindy Sheehan, presentó a las madres de los Cinco Cubanos un preciado collar que su hijo Casey, un soldado que murió en Irak, le había regalado. El collar se devolverá a Sheehan cuando los Cinco regresen a sus madres, sus familias y al pueblo cubano, que decididamente exige justicia al Gobierno de Estados Unidos y a la administración Obama.

De acuerdo con <http://ahora.cu>, “Mirtha Rodríguez, madre de Antonio Guerrero, dijo que el gesto estaba lleno de amor y esperanza y demuestra el gran compromiso por la paz de parte de la madre y activista estadounidense para continuar la lucha para crear conciencia sobre el caso de los Cinco en un país que ha construido un muro de silencio que rodea el caso”.

Los Cinco Cubanos: Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero y René González, reunieron información sobre operaciones paramilitares basadas en la Florida responsables de la muerte de más de 3.000 cubanos/as y otros/as civiles, incluyendo el primer bombardeo en el aire de un avión civil y los bombardeos

de hoteles turísticos. El 6 de octubre de 1976, el Vuelo 455 de Cubana de Aviación explotó después de despegar de Barbaodos, matando a las 73 personas a bordo.

Aunque René González fue oficialmente liberado de prisión en octubre, él está obligado a servir tres años adicionales de libertad condicional en Florida. El Gobierno de Estados Unidos incluso continúa negando una visa de entrada a su esposa Olga Salanueva, para que lo visite durante este tiempo.

Una apelación posterior a la condena de hábeas corpus ha sido presentada por Hernández, que todavía está condenado a dos cadenas perpetuas más 15 años y a quien se le ha negado la visita de su esposa, Adriana Pérez. Tanto Pérez como Salanueva participaron en el Coloquio de Holguín. La apelación de Hernández se basa en que la mala conducta confesada por el abogado y la información que envenenó las ondas de radio en Miami por periodistas destacados agregando un tono de sensacionalismo al juicio, fueron pagadas por el gobierno de EE.UU. Recursos de habeas para Labañino, González y Guerrero también citan a los periodistas empleados por el gobierno.

Más de 300 delegados/as de 47 países adoptaron una declaración final que esboza nuevas acciones: una campaña internacional masiva de cartas al presidente de Estados Unidos Barack Obama; la movilización de instituciones religiosas en EE.UU. y alrededor del mundo para apoyar el llamado por la libertad de los Cinco Cubanos; la adopción del 8 de junio del 2012 — el aniversario del injusto veredicto de culpable contra los cinco hombres — como día de protesta y movilización; y un llamado a los/as jóvenes a organizar conciertos desde el 12 de septiembre al 6 de octubre, Días de las Víctimas de Terrorismo Estatal, para levantar conciencia sobre Los Cinco. □

Desde Cap-Haïtien a Port-au-Prince Los/as haitianos/as luchan contra la miseria

Por G. Dunkel

La batalla de Vertières, una victoria trascendental en la lucha del pueblo haitiano contra el racismo, el colonialismo y la esclavitud, ha sido conmemorada por 208 años el 28 de noviembre en el lugar de la batalla, desde donde su vista se domina la ciudad de Cap-Haïtien, una ciudad grande en el norte de Haití. Típicamente, el presidente de Haití y los/as oficiales electos/as, tales como senadores/as y diputados/as, asisten a la pompa y ceremonia tradicional de la conmemoración.

Este año, el presidente Michel Martelly cambió el sitio a Port-au-Prince frente a 500 personas. Algunos periódicos de la prensa derechista haitiana, como Le Matin, insinaron que el cambio de lugar fue un acto de descortesía al establecimiento político del norte de Haití.

Pero el pueblo de Cap-Haïtien es conocido por su enfoque combativo y de enfrentamiento hacia la política. Y como la mayoría de haitianos/as, ve a Minustah —

las fuerzas de la ONU que están ocupando Haití y que son portadores del cólera que ha matado a 7.000 haitianos/as y enfermado a más de 700.000 — como la fuerza que protege al sistema que los mantiene en miseria. Minustah tomó el mando de la ocupación de Haití de los EE.UU y Francia en 2004.

En medio de las miles de personas que se reunieron en Vertieres, cientos de manifestantes llegaron con una bandera que leía ¡”Abajo con Minustah”! Hicieron ver que esta celebración no debería tener lugar mientras Haití esté ocupada. En lugar de los adornos patrióticos acostumbrados, cubrieron los muros de la plaza con consignas como: ¡”Minustah = cólera”! y “Bill Clinton + Comisión Interina para la Recuperación de Haití = ocupación”. La CIRH controla el dispendio de fondos de ayuda para Haití y Clinton es su presidente. Algunos/as de los/as manifestantes llegaron luego de asistir a una gran conferencia pan-caribeña para

Continua a página 10